

Citizens may comment on a permit for the withdrawal of ground water in James City County, Virginia

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: November 27, 2005 to December 27, 2005

PERMIT NAME: Ground Water Withdrawal Permit

Any person or facility that proposes to withdraw 300,000 gallons per month or more in a ground water management area may have to submit a permit application to the Department of Environmental Quality, which is under the authority delegated by the State Water Control Board.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To invite the public to comment on the draft permit.

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Busch Entertainment Corp., One Busch Gardens Blvd., Williamsburg, VA; GW0047800

NAME AND LOCATION OF WATER WITHDRAWAL: Busch Gardens Williamsburg; James City County, VA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Busch Entertainment Corp has applied for a new permit to replace their expired permit for a theme park in Williamsburg, Virginia. The permit would allow the applicant to withdraw an average of 128,767 gallons per day. This amount is a reduction of 53% from their previously permitted amount. The ground water withdrawal will support a water supply for water rides, lake level replenishment and irrigation. The proposed withdrawal will utilize the Upper Potomac aquifer at a depth between 445 feet to 515 feet and the Aquia aquifer at a depth between 400 feet to 448 feet below the land surface at the withdrawal site. An aquifer is a body of rock or layer of sediment in the ground in which ground water is stored and transported. DEQ has made a tentative decision to issue the permit.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: After public comments have been considered and addressed by the permit or other means, DEQ will decide whether to issue the permit or to conduct a public hearing. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the proposed permit. If there is a public hearing, the State Water Control Board will make the final decision.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must be in writing; contain a brief statement on how the proposal affects the person commenting, other users or the aquifer; and be received by DEQ during the comment period. The public also may request a public hearing. If a public hearing is requested, the written comments should also include the reason for holding a hearing and related factual concerns.

TO REVIEW THE DRAFT PERMIT AND APPLICATION: The public may review the documents at the DEQ Tidewater Regional Office every work day by appointment.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Rachel Borum

Address: Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23462

Phone: 757-518-2145 E-mail: rcborum@deq.virginia.gov FAX: 757-518-2009